



WEED & SEED IN-SITES

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Oklahoma City Weed & Seed Officers Honored for Saving Lives

Lieutenant Larry Rhodes
Oklahoma City Police Department

Two Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, police officers who double as Weed and Seed neighborhood officers were recognized for their bravery, dedication, and outstanding service at a Weed and Seed steering committee meeting held in January. Officers Jon Chris Cargill and Dennis L. Bueno were singled out for their heroic efforts to save an Oklahoma City mother and son trapped in a burning house. Both officers have been actively involved in the Oklahoma City Weed and Seed Law Enforcement and Community Policing programs since 1997. They are among a group of approximately 28 Weed and Seed officers in the Oklahoma City Police Department who have contributed time and energy to improving the community. The group has made more than 246 felony arrests, recovered 36 stolen vehicles, seized 6 firearms, and retrieved narcotics worth more than \$100,000 in the Oklahoma City area to date.

Officers Cargill and Bueno received recognition for their response to a house fire on January 2, 1999. They had just begun their shift as Weed and Seed neighborhood

officers when they saw smoke billowing from a residence

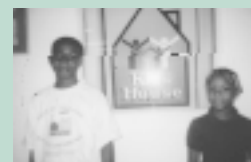
on South West 29th Street. They found a man standing in the carport of the burning house. The man, identified as resident Hobart Romine, told the officers that a boy was still inside; he then collapsed from smoke inhalation. Officer Bueno entered the house and found 3-year-old Zachary Cox unconscious. Officer Bueno carried Cox from the house while Officer Cargill pulled Romine from the carport to safety. Romine regained consciousness and told the officers that Zachary's mother was still in the house.

Officer Cargill attempted to enter the house through the door his partner had used, but was turned away by flames. He then kicked open a back door and entered the house, but was forced out by intense heat and smoke. He suffered minor injuries. When Oklahoma City firefighters arrived on the scene, they were unable to save the remaining occupant, later identified as Kara Cox. 🏠



Officers Dennis L. Bueno (left) and Jon Chris Cargill.

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Technical Assistance Is Just a Phone Call Away

Nancy Ware

Director of Technical Assistance and Training
Executive Office for Weed and Seed

At the EOWS Grant Application Regional Conferences in Portland, Oregon, and Mobile, Alabama, presentations were given to participants about the process for acquiring technical assistance (TA) and training to implement Weed and Seed strategies at their sites. The information below summarizes these presentations.

Technical Assistance (TA) is a dynamic process. At the core of all technical assistance is the sharing of information about developing strategies for Weed and Seed communities and the families that live within them. Often sites are hesitant about asking for TA. Some feel that a request for advice will reflect negatively on their ability to implement a successful Weed and Seed strategy. ***This is definitely not the case.*** EOWS encourages sites to take advantage of the expertise available to them to strengthen the components of their strategy.


Support and information are most frequently requested on the following TA areas: administrative structure, law enforcement participation, prevention and intervention techniques, community policing, neighborhood restoration, and community mobilization.

If your Weed and Seed site is interested in receiving TA and training, the first step is to consult the EOWS Program Manager assigned to your site. EOWS also encourages sites to

identify local providers who have expertise in the areas for which TA is being sought.

The following steps should be taken when a site decides that it would like to request TA:

- ◆ Develop a 1-year TA work plan with your site's Program Manager. This work plan should be based on your site's strategy, your discussions with the EOWS Program Manager, and any special needs that you've identified. This work plan should prioritize your site's TA needs.
- ◆ Initiate TA and training within the site itself. Site-initiated TA should be based on the Weed and Seed strategy being implemented. This is important to remember because often a site learns of activities going on at other sites and wants to implement those activities even if they don't fall within the parameters of their strategy. When requesting TA, sites should stay focused on their own strategy.
- ◆ Develop a statement explaining the need for and objectives of your TA request. Include how the needed TA fits into your site's overall Weed and Seed strategy. This information should support the site's need for TA and should be included with the request sent to EOWS.
- ◆ Include a description of the specific assistance requested for each anticipated task associated with the request.
- ◆ If your site has identified a preferred TA provider, include as much background information as possible in your request. List the name, address, and professional references of the provider. If you have not been able to identify a contractor, the EOWS Program Manager will find an acceptable provider.
- ◆ Indicate in your written request when the TA should be provided.
- ◆ Identify the representatives from your site who will participate in the TA sessions.
- ◆ And don't forget to evaluate your TA once it has been completed so the EOWS staff can determine whether it was useful and fully met your needs. If you have questions regarding what to include in your evaluation, contact your Program Manager for suggestions.

Remember, TA is only a phone call or e-mail away. We encourage you to use the options available. Call your Program Manager to get started. 

Nancy Ware joined the Executive Office for Weed and Seed staff as the Director of Technical Assistance and Training in November 1998. She brings a wealth of experience in community organization and mobilization, child development, training, and program development.



The 1999 Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) season has just begun! In-Sites devotes this section to the thousands of volunteers who, through DEFY, make a difference in the lives of youth in our Weed and Seed communities. In the coming months we would like to publish your stories, so please submit articles and photographs on behalf of your DEFY program.

What Is DEFY?

The Executive Office for Weed and Seed administers the U.S. Department of Justice's DEFY programs, in cooperation with local military units and law enforcement agencies working primarily with disadvantaged youth. Other agencies such as the Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms also support DEFY in many communities.

Each summer, DEFY sponsors a summer camp program that lasts from 5 to 10 days, called Phase I. Phase II is a school-year mentoring program designed to reinforce the training and education received in Phase I. During regularly scheduled activities in Phase II, mentors and staff provide tutoring and positive reinforcement through group mentoring and interactive workshops. By teaching the importance of education, good health, physical fitness, and citizenship to children ages 9 through 12, DEFY attempts to combat the temptations and peer pressure associated with drugs and gangs. Instead of dealing with these problems after lives have been ruined, DEFY employs less costly preventive measures, instilling a strong antidrug foundation in its young participants.

In addition to providing extensive education about drug use and its effects, the program teaches discipline, builds self-esteem, and increases physical fitness. It also offers military role models and provides activities (such as touring an aircraft carrier or watching a Navy jet land) that children might not experience otherwise. In Phase II prosecutors, police officers, and other adults act as mentors to children ages 9 through 12.

Many cities have worked with DEFY through local military contacts. Weed and Seed initiated its DEFY program

in the summer of 1996 with three pilot sites: Atlanta, Georgia; New Orleans, Louisiana; and San Antonio, Texas. The program was implemented in approximately 60 Weed and Seed sites during fiscal year 1997.

The Navy estimates that the cost of the program is about \$10,000 per 30 children. This amount is being paid by the Executive Office for Weed and Seed through local U.S. Attorney's Offices. The funds are not part of a community's Weed and Seed grant.

It is not necessary to have a Navy or Marine Corps facility nearby in order to organize a local program. Other military resources, such as the National Guard, may be able to provide grounds for the summer camp. Commitment of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the police department, and others who are willing to coordinate activities and act as mentors is the most important aspect of the program.

For more information on DEFY, contact Louis Lucas at EOWS by calling 202-616-1152. 🏠



Getting into DEFY in Long Island, New York.

Kids House: Nurturing, Nutrition, and Family Values

Meredith Nielsen
Program Manager
EOWS

In its first year of collaboration with the Urban Family Institute, the Executive Office for Weed and Seed has opened six Kids Houses in Weed and Seed Safe Havens. The Urban Family Institute developed the Kids House initiative to provide a safe, family-like environment for children during nonschool hours. Run by volunteers, Kids Houses operate in homes, churches, schools, and public housing developments.

Adult volunteers from the community are trained by the Urban Family Institute to implement the Kids House curriculum, created by the Institute to help kids learn, create, and grow. The Kids House concept emphasizes children's academic and social development. Supervising adults at the Kids House maintain an environment in which children can both recognize and achieve their potential.

Central to the Kids House philosophy is the routine of a family-style dinner. Traditionally, preparing meals, setting and clearing the table, and washing the dishes together provided family members the opportunity to talk and discuss events of the day. At Kids House, this tradition is revived. Not only do children receive a nutritious meal, they also experience traditional family life by participating in these dinnertime activities.

EOWS' first Kids House at Carver Terrace in Washington, D.C., received an award from the Urban Family

Institute for the most enterprising site. Volunteers at the site have developed an array of resources for the children who participate in the Kids House. The local civic association provides space and material for all Kids House events. Volunteers from Girls Inc., a non-profit organization serving more than 350,000 high-risk girls from 6 to 18 years of age, mentor young ladies at the Kids House and are developing a curriculum specifically for girls.

EOWS would like to applaud the wonderful work being done by the staff volunteers at all six Weed and Seed Kids Houses: Anna Velazquez and her staff in Salina, California; Veronica Hartfield and her staff at Carver Terrace in Washington, D.C.; Jeffrey Williams and his staff in Polk County, Florida; Shae Taylor and her staff at the NW Austin site in Chicago, Illinois; Carri Jones and her staff in Wichita, Kansas; and James Carter, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Hattie Broussard, and their staff in New Orleans, Louisiana.

EOWS would also like to thank Kent Amos, Executive Director of the Urban Family Institute, and his staff for organizing the successful Urban Family Institute semiannual Kids House Conference and Training




Ribbon-cutting ceremony at Lakeland, Florida, Kids House.

Retreat held at the Xerox Document University on January 29–31, 1999, in Leesburg, Virginia. Representatives from the Weed and Seed Kids House sites and other Kids Houses gathered to exchange ideas for expanding the Kids House initiative. The conference provided a forum for sharing successes, describing challenges, and focusing on the goals of the Kids House effort.

EOWS is excited about the success of this new program in Weed and Seed communities. Kids House provides an additional means of achieving the goals of the Weed and Seed Safe Haven program.

For more information on the Kids House initiative, or to receive information on starting a Kids House in your community, contact:

Urban Family Institute
1400 16th Street NW.
Suite 101
Washington, DC 20036-2266
202-234-KIDS
E-mail: kids@ufi.org
Web Address: www.ufi.org 

What's Working

Shreveport Weed and Seed Community Action

Mary Ellen Hoffman
Shreveport Weed and Seed
Seed Coordinator

On November 30, 1998, Louisiana's first truancy center opened in Shreveport. The Weed and Seed Truancy Center is funded by a 1-year, \$50,000 special emphasis grant awarded to the Highland/Stoner Hill site by the Executive Office for Weed and Seed. The center has a unique collaborative agreement with the Shreveport Police Department, the Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, the Caddo Parish School Board (CPSB), the Rutherford House, and the local Weed and Seed community.

CPSB defines truancy as "repeated or habitual unauthorized absence of a child from school." CPSB reported that 4,315 youth, ages 7 through 16, missed 15 or more unexcused days during the 1997–1998 school year. As the U.S. Department of Education states in *The Manual to Combat Truancy*, "Truancy is the first indicator that a young person is giving up and losing his or her way. When young people start skipping school, they are telling their parents, school officials, and the community at large that they are in trouble and need our help if they are to keep moving forward in life."

State Senator Chris Ullo plans to introduce legislation in the spring 1999 session that will allocate funds to open four Truancy Assessment and Service Centers in Louisiana. Among other activities, the centers will assess the correlation between dropout rates and criminal activity. Weed and Seed truancy center advocates in Caddo Parish hope to secure one of the four assessment centers to expand their efforts next year.

Two weeks after the successful opening of the truancy center, Brookshire's, a local community grocery store in the Highland/Stoner Hill neighborhood, united with Shreveport's Weed and Seed community to introduce the Weed and Seed Information Center. Brookshire's actively promotes community policing by providing office space in the store for the local Weed and Seed to display information about available resources.



From left: Angela Tappe, Administrative Assistant; Dawn Robinson, Receptionist; Mary Ellen Hoffman, Seed Coordinator; Corporal Isiah Jackson; Corporal Richard Carroll; Officer R.W. Vanni; Sergeant Danny Fogger.

The Weed and Seed Information Center will provide desk space for Shreveport Police Department personnel, Weed and Seed staff, neighborhood assistance team officers, and community liaison officers. Police officers may also use telephones at the Information Center to assist them with their duties.

The Weed and Seed Information Center will conduct crime prevention programs, and staff will provide information on local code enforcement, landlord/tenant issues, and health services.

Police Chief Steve Prator expressed great satisfaction with the community policing effort that is taking place in Shreveport. "We are pleased that Brookshire's has initiated a partnership with the Shreveport Police Department. The goal of community policing is to involve businesses, citizens, and police in fighting crime."

St. Petersburg Safe Haven Opens

Alice Nightingale

St. Petersburg Weed and Seed Safe Haven Coordinator

The St. Petersburg, Florida, Weed and Seed Safe Haven opened on November 17, 1998. A standing-room-only crowd gathered for a candlelight ceremony at the James B. Sanderlin Family Service Center, the headquarters for the Safe Haven program. A Safe Haven is a place where youth and other residents can access needed services, develop relationships, find opportunities to be productive and successful, and enhance skills.

The Safe Haven is working with community partners such as Academy Prep School, a school for boys in grades five through seven located in the Weed and Seed neighborhood. In December, the Safe Haven hosted a holiday party for Academy Prep students and 28 at-risk young men from the Britt House, a youth rehabilitation center for felony offenders. "The Safe Haven has wonderful opportunities to offer the community. I wish them the best of luck and much success," said Kim Ross, volunteer coordinator at the James B. Sanderlin Family Service Center.

The Safe Haven program is in need of volunteers to mentor and tutor youth in after-school programs. After-school activities organized by Safe Haven programs include computer technology and job skills training.

In addition to the Safe Haven program, the James B. Sanderlin Family Service Center houses 17 separate Weed and Seed Neighborhood Associations and provides office space to the Center Against Spouse Abuse.

Weed and Seed Task Force Recognized for Accomplishments in North Amityville, New York

In separate ceremonies, Zachary W. Carter, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and Robert K. Sweeney, New York State Assemblyman, presented awards to members of the North Amityville Weed and Seed Task Force for their dedication to the community of North Amityville, New York.

On November 17, 1998, at an awards ceremony for members of the law enforcement community on Long Island, Mr. Carter recognized the task force for its exceptional service in the implementation of the Weed and Seed strategy in the target area. The task force, consisting of Suffolk County police and probation officers, also received a Citation for Outstanding Service to the Weed and Seed Community from Assemblyman Sweeney on December 9, 1998.


The Suffolk County Police and Probation Departments, along with members of the Neighborhood Watch and other community groups, successfully turned an area known as "The Corner" from a notorious drug market into the North Amityville Community Economic Council (NACEC) Plaza—a thriving business area consisting of a day care and tutorial center, a branch of EAB Bank, and a police substation that serves as headquarters for the Weed and Seed Task Force.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary O'Donoghue, who administers eight Weed and Seed sites for the U.S. Attorney, said, "The commitment of the North Amityville Weed and Seed



The North Amityville Task Force receives the Citation for Outstanding Service to the Weed and Seed Community from Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney.

Task Force has made a significant difference in the quality of life for residents of North Amityville. The officers are not only involved in traditional law enforcement activities within the site, but they are also dedicated to the community policing effort. They have developed strong ties with the Neighborhood Watch, supervised by Mr. Taylor Jones, who serves as the eyes and ears of the police in the community. Together, the task force and community members have been able to develop a successful strategy that has almost eliminated violent crime and drug dealing in this wonderful community."

Police members of the task force are Lt. Edward Reilly; Sgts. William Burke and James Woods; and police officers Elizabeth Butcher, Michael Callahan, Robert Carroll, Angel Chevalier, Robert Farrell, Ralph Hackenjos, James Hillgardner, Donald Hughes, Kevin Keyes, Sean McQuaid, Raul Mercado, Lynn Rathjen, and Stephen Tracy. 

It Takes a Village To Raze a Drug House

The Experiences of the Trumbull Village in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mary Elliston

City of Albuquerque, New Mexico

In a warm, sunny Tuesday in February, a crowd gathered in the Trumbull Village cheered as a giant yellow, front-end loader chomped into a one-story apartment complex. The machine tore through wood and windows that once framed the 32 units, leaving a pile of rubble and filling neighborhood residents with a sense of accomplishment. On a site previously occupied by one of the most notorious drug houses in the “war zone” (WZ), 16 town homes will bring new homeowners into Trumbull Village.

The Trumbull neighborhood is filled with residents committed to fighting back against the crime and decay that led the area to be a designated part of the Albuquerque Weed and Seed site (by the U.S. Department of Justice) and the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD) in February 1998. These residents, in partnership with police and city staff, are taking back their neighborhood, refusing to be defined as part of the “WZ,” and working to make the Village safe for families and future investment.

Mayor Jim Baca, who struck the demolition’s symbolic first blow with a golden sledgehammer, acknowledged the 18 months of hard work that brought the neighborhood to this day. “When I visited the Trumbull Village Neighborhood Association shortly after my election, you told me about this property and we worked together to board it up and take it over.”



Front-end loader demolishes a former drug-ridden apartment complex.



Members of the Trumbull Village Neighborhood Association, Albuquerque Police Department Code Enforcement, and Turn Around Albuquerque Anti-Drug Marchers along with local children.

The demolition of this apartment complex is a direct result of Albuquerque’s successful community policing program. Two years ago the owners of this complex walked away from it. They stopped making repairs, collecting rent, and caring about what happened to the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents voiced their concerns about the illegal activity that was going on at the complex. They conducted antidrug marches, monitored activities, and reported to police. One neighbor called every day to report on criminal activities.

The local code enforcement team and police department, working together, condemned the units as unsafe. When the owners of the units did not respond to orders to repair them, the city of Albuquerque took them to court for criminal negligence. The city legal department, police department, and Department of Family and Community Services got the buildings condemned, and drew up a plan for the renovation of the site.

During an 18-month period, squatters occupied the buildings and set one of the units on fire. The fire department responded and kept the fire from spreading to adjacent units, but the fire complicated asbestos abatement measures that were required before the buildings could be demolished.

City staff then went to court to gain the right to evict the tenants and squatters and board up the building.

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It Takes a Village To Raze a Drug House

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A second court decision in January 1999 awarded the city the right of permanent entry, which enabled the city to demolish the building. The city is still in court with mortgage holders to decide the value of the property. Only then will the city get permanent title.

Today, the rubble is gone and a fence surrounds the site. A large sign posted on the fence displays the architects' design for Trumbull Park Village. The city of Albuquerque, using \$1.5 million in funds from HUD, is working with a nonprofit developer to build 16 single-family homes for sale to first-time homebuyers. It is hoped that some area residents will have the opportunity to care for their community in a home of their own.

Vigilant neighborhood residents, together with committed city administrators, lawyers, police officers, fire fighters, community developers, and officials from federal agencies, spent 2 years weeding this property. It is now time for the seeds to sprout. 🏡



From left: Michael Callihan (Southeast Area Command), Monica Sanchez and Robert Lujan (CODETEAM), Joe Tenorio (Albuquerque Fire Department), and Russell Mora (Albuquerque Housing Inspector).

From Portland, Oregon: Weed and Seed Grant Application Conference

Despite the rain, the West Region Grant Application Conference was a shining success! The city of Portland and DoubleTree Hayden Island Hotel were gracious hosts to the 2-day conference, February 16–17, 1999. Some 260 attendees, including city accountants, program managers, and grant writers, gathered in a grand ballroom overlooking the Columbia River to learn about technical assistance, asset forfeiture, and management of a Weed and Seed budget.

A hands-on session, facilitated by the Office of Justice Program's Office of the Comptroller, offered the audience the opportunity to practice their budget management skills. Participants reviewed sample budgets and presented their findings to a panel of judges.

One Weed and Seed participant didn't need much time to make up his site's construction budget. In just 10 minutes, Gino Rodriguez (Oxnard, California) reviewed his assignment and presented his budget strategy; he took first prize for the Best Budget Award.

Information on the following presentations from the West Region Grant Application Conference is available by calling 202-514-0709:

- ◆ "What is Your GPRA," by Jim Zepp and Yuki Yamagishi, Justice Research and Statistics Association.
- ◆ "Mastering Grant and Proposal Writing," by China Davidson,



Kent Amos, Executive Director of the Urban Family Institute, shares information on Kids House with conference participants.



Program Manager Stacy Larsen and LECC Coordinator from Columbus, Ohio, Fred Alverson, enjoy the Portland conference.

Office of the U.S. Attorney,
Northern District of Alabama.


- ◆ "Technical Assistance" by Nancy Ware, Director of Technical Assistance and Training, EOWS.

Also available is the "Self-Assessment Toolkit—Tools To Measure Your Progress in Implementing Weed and Seed Strategies in Your Target Area," created by EOWS consultant Valencia Coar. 🏡

Honolulu, Hawaii, Finishes a Busy Year

Malie Kanemaru

Honolulu Weed and Seed Coordinator

 On September 3, 1998, a Weed and Seed kickoff event was held in cooperation with Aloha United Way. Nine hundred volunteers and residents participated in cleanup and beautification projects within the Weed and Seed emphasis area of Kalihi-Palama/Chinatown. Some of the projects included cleaning a senior citizens home, painting walls and stairwells at Mayor Wright Homes, preparing food at area homeless shelters, installing bicycle racks at Kalihi Elementary School, and grading the Palama Settlement parking lot. Volunteers also planted trees, painted graffiti-laden walls, and cleaned stream gullies and storm drains.

On October 24, Weed and Seed's Make a Difference Day brought 150 volunteers together to help clean up Kaiulani Elementary School. One month later, on November 24, Weed and Seed Honolulu helped sponsor Mayor Wright Homes Tenant Association's Thanksgiving Family Night. More than 70 families participated in the event that included a potluck dinner, bingo games, a mock "Wheel of Fortune" game, and door prizes. The next day, Weed and Seed Steering Committee member and Honolulu FBI

Agent Myron Fuller swore in 78 new "agents" as part of the FBI's Junior Special Agent program at Kaiulani Elementary School. The program offers fifth graders classroom activities in drug and gang recognition, problem-solving skills, and anger management. The activities also test physical fitness.

On November 28, the Honolulu Police Department and the Weed and Seed office hosted a picnic for Kaiulani Elementary School students and their parents at the Honolulu Zoo. Approximately 15 families attended the event.

Honolulu's Weed and Seed drug task force has begun its "weeding" activities. By the end of 1998, the task force had contributed to the arrest of 48 drug dealers. In addition, the Hawaii State judiciary obtained a \$299,983 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to expand the Hawaii Drug Court program. The grant will help create a program to treat 125 drug offenders in the Weed and Seed site. 🏠



Gordon Furutani (State Coordinator, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) and Steven Alm (U.S. Attorney) paint the guard house at the entrance to Mayor Wright Homes.



From left: Warren Luke (former treasurer, United Way of America Board of Governors), Dr. Ruth Ono (Aloha United Way), Margery Bronster (Attorney General, State of Hawaii), Steven Alm (U.S. Attorney), Neil Abercrombie (U.S. Representative), Jeremy Harris (Mayor, Honolulu), and Stephen Rickman (Director, EOWS).

Mother Teary as Gifts Arrive

Weed and Seed selected 130 families

Carrie Johnson
Richmond Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

RICHMOND, VA, December 24, 1998.—Tears filled Glenda Miller's eyes as a military truck filled with presents rolled up in front of her Blackwell home. "I wasn't expecting all of this," Miller whispered. "Thank you. Thank you."

Miller and her three children—6-year-old Dremon, 7-year-old Atiesha, and 3-year-old Devonte—were among 130 families selected for the annual Weed and Seed distribution of Christmas presents. "This is amazing," Miller said, as volunteers began unloading presents off the trucks. "It's going to be a good Christmas."

The group held its first Christmas program in 1992, when it distributed presents to 10 families with 30 children. Yesterday, it distributed toys and gifts to more than 400 youths in the Blackwell community.

Five 5-ton military trucks, overflowing with bicycles, dolls and other presents, sat

idling in front of the downtown branch of the YMCA yesterday morning. Robert Dortch, executive director of Weed and Seed of Richmond Inc., smiled broadly as volunteers scurried about making last-minute preparations. "Christmas may have been bleak for some of these people without all this," Dortch said.

Weed and Seed coordinators and Richmond police select the families who will receive gifts. To qualify, parents must be enrolled in some sort of self-sufficiency program and be taking steps to move from welfare to work, Dortch said.

The money for the presents was raised through corporate and community donations. Members of the Richmond Police Department, Virginia National Guard soldiers and volunteers from local businesses helped distribute the presents. "Our job is to make Christmas and caring a daily occurrence — not just something you celebrate once a year," Richmond Deputy Chief of Police Fred Russell said at a press conference before the distribution.



A Richmond police officer helps distribute gifts as part of the Christmas program.

Tracy Lamison, the president of the Blackwell Tenant Association, thanked the volunteers for their hard work and generosity. "You may not realize how much your contributions are going to help some of these people," Lamison said. "But I know."

With that, the caravan of trucks, police vehicles, and volunteers' cars rumbled through downtown Richmond, across the Manchester Bridge and into Blackwell. Residents leaned out of windows and peered from their doorways as the convoy passed through.

Blackwell resident Lynette Wright smiled warmly as volunteers trooped through her apartment, their arms laden with gifts. "We've truly been blessed this year," said Wright, who lives with her 3-month-old son, De'ron, her mother, and her two brothers.

Wright, 20, said she was told earlier in the week that she had qualified for the Weed and Seed program, but never expected to see anything like the array of presents spread throughout her apartment. "I'm speechless," she said. "This will make Christmas so much better than what we expected it to be."

Reprinted, by permission, from
Richmond Times-Dispatch.

CONFERENCE

C O R N E R

The 1999 Weed and Seed National Conference *Communities of the New Millennium*

Mark your calendars! EOWS is excited to announce its Communities of the New Millennium, a national conference to be held **August 1–4, 1999**. Cohosted by the city of Houston, Texas, this national conference will offer 3 days of training, exhibits, and special events, and more than 50 different information sessions on current trends and innovations in community revitalization.

Also, for the first time at a Weed and Seed conference, participants will be able to participate in preconference Learning Labs. Each daylong lab will offer students the opportunity to fine-tune their skills in areas such as community mobilization, technology, and financial management. Pre-registration for these labs will be required separately from the national conference, and a small fee will be charged; the fee is payable by the

site's Weed and Seed grant. More information on this program will be posted on the EOWS Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/). Sites will also be mailed information about the conference.

To make Communities of the New Millennium a success, we are asking for your assistance! Please inventory your programs and send us news clippings, photos, and videotapes from your Weed and Seed community. Submit details with each photo and, whenever possible, provide an original copy of newspaper articles.

EOWS has hosted many conferences in the past. We need your input to tell us what you would like to see, learn, and experience at Communities of the New Millennium. Send your suggestions, questions, and comments to Penne Soltysik at EOWS via e-mail (soltysik@ojp.usdoj.gov), fax 202–616–1159, or call 202–514–0709. 🏠

Communities of the New Millennium



Weed and Seed Promotes Marriage Savers Program in Tennessee

The Dyersburg, Tennessee, Weed and Seed office is promoting a program aimed at reducing domestic and juvenile crime through marriage counseling. Introduced by Rev. Bob Miller in 1998, Marriage Savers of Northwest Tennessee features premarital preparation, counseling, and mentoring services for married couples, as well as sponsors workshops for troubled marriages.

Marriage Savers was developed by syndicated columnist Mike McManus and a group of clergy in Modesto,

California, in 1986. Rev. Miller came up with the idea for the program at a law enforcement conference in Washington, D.C. “You always hear about domestic violence and juvenile violence, but the one thing I never heard mentioned were marriages,” Miller said.

Miller said that he knows of no other Weed and Seed site that incorporates Marriage Savers into its programs. “It’s pretty much in its infantile stage,” he said. “We already have two couples from the heart of the Dyersburg Weed and Seed area who

will work with others, but we need more. I think they will do well. They really seem to believe in the program.”

Marriage Savers of Northwest Tennessee will sponsor several upcoming events. Weed and Seed and the Dyer County Ministerial Organization will cosponsor Marriage Mentor Training for Community Couples. Weed and Seed will organize Focus/Refocus Marriage Counseling training for area pastors at Dyersburg City Hall. For more information, call Rev. Bob Miller at 901–286–0864. 🏠

“The America Series— Rebuilding Our Communities”

Weed and Seed’s Teleconference Series



“Youth Under Siege: America’s Deadly Drug Trends,” part five of Weed and Seed’s teleconference series, “The America Series—Rebuilding Our Communities,” was broadcast nationally on Wednesday, February 3, 1999, to 1.2 million viewers. The video examines the latest trends in heroin, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine use by youth and focuses on effective, antidrug outreach programs for youth. The teleconference was broadcast via 130 downlink sites and through public access television from the National Guard Multi-Media Branch in Dothan, Alabama.

The broadcast spotlighted the National Institute of Justice’s Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program, which collects data from interviews and results from urinalyses of adult and juvenile arrestees and detainees in police custody. ADAM analyzes the relationship between drugs and violent crime and studies attitudes about the use of drugs and guns.

The teleconference also highlighted Youth Force, a South Bronx, New York, Weed and Seed outreach initiative that is run by youth and provides tutoring, educational resources, and support for young people going through family and criminal court processes. The initiative also sponsors a youth court. Many Youth Force members, who previously were involved with the criminal or juvenile justice system, serve as examples of how young people can turn away

from drugs and violence and lead productive lives.

In addition, the broadcast examined PharmTech’s conceptual approach to alcoholism and drug dependency, which emphasizes the need for addicts to accept responsibility for their actions and address factors that may have contributed to their dependency, such as dysfunctional family relationships. PharmTech, based in Santa Cruz, California, provides technical assistance and consulting services to behavioral health care providers.

Information about the programs featured in the broadcast is also available by contacting the featured organizations.

ADAM

Karen Cyrus, Program Assistant
National Institute of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: 202-616-9030
Fax: 202-616-0275
Email: cyrusk@ojp.usdoj.gov
Web Address: www.adam-nij.net/adam/index.htm

PharmTech

P.O. Box 7902
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
408-426-3860

Youth Force

320 Jackson Avenue
South Bronx, NY 10453
718-665-4268

“The America Series” is cosponsored by EOWS and the National Guard Bureau. On the first Wednesday of every other month, EOWS Director

Stephen Rickman and Weed and Seed program organizers from various sites work with media experts to broadcast a 1½-hour live show.

Participating in the live teleconference is easy! This resource can be used by every site not only to educate the community, but also to interact with the panelists directly. The show invites viewers to call and ask the panel questions. Callers can also offer comments. If your site would like step-by-step assistance in linking to the next teleconference, call Wendy Anderson at 323-936-1359. EOWS will soon have videotapes of all past broadcasts available:

- ◆ Part I, “Taking Back Our Communities” Aired: December 10, 1997.
- ◆ Part II, “Taking Back Our Youth” Aired: May 6, 1998.
- ◆ Part III, “Crackdown on Crack-houses” Aired: August 5, 1998.
- ◆ Part IV, “Ganging Up on Gangs” Aired: November 5, 1998.
- ◆ Part V, “Youth Under Siege: America’s Deadly Drug Trends” Aired: February 3, 1999.
- ◆ Part VI, “Odyssey 2007: Reducing the Nation’s Drug Use” Aired: April 15, 1999.

If you would like copies of these videos, please call Penne Soltysik at 202-514-0709. To find out more about the teleconference series, visit the EOWS Web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows), or call Nancy Ware at 202-616-1152. 🏠



WEB *sight*

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) maintains dozens of Web sites. EOWS encourages you to take a few minutes to see what OJP has to offer online. The OJP main page can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/. From this main page, online users can access information and

links to all OJP agencies and offices: American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk, Corrections Program Office, Drug Courts Program Office, Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support, Office of the Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education, and Violence Against Women Office. This page also links you to all five OJP bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juve-

nile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

If your Weed and Seed community has a presence on the Web, let us know about it and we'll link your site to the EOWS Web site! Call 202-616-9384.

Publications Available Online

Did you know that most of the publications offered at EOWS conferences are available online? The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) contains specialized information centers that provide publications and other information services to those interested in each of the five Office of Justice Programs agencies and the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Access these resources at www.ncjrs.org/ and peruse the thousands of titles available for free or at a nominal fee. In addition, subscribe to JUSTINFO—the free online newsletter from NCJRS published every 2 weeks. 🏠

EOWS Bids Farewell to Staff Members

Former *In-Sites* editor **John Harris III** has left the EOWS staff to pursue a career in sports journalism. John was the *In-Sites* editor for 1 year. Program Manager at OJP for 5 years, **Carla Friestad** has left EOWS to become a Law Enforcement Coordinator at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix, Arizona. EOWS wishes John and Carla the best of luck in their new endeavors.

EOWS Welcomes New Staff

Lisa Huff-Gallaway is the new EOWS secretary. Lisa comes to the office from a secretarial position at the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Prior to working for BJA, Lisa was employed by Immigration and Naturalization Border Patrol. Lisa attended Binghamton State University in New York.

Elaine Morrisseau is the new *In-Sites* editor. She joins EOWS from a

community-based program in Prince George's County, Maryland, where she was a caseworker with at-risk youth. Elaine has an A.S. in communications from Sage Junior College of Albany in Albany, New York, and a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Program Manager **Romia Ray**'s first day with EOWS was March 29. Romia is originally from North Carolina and graduated from North Carolina A&T State University with a B.A. in Professional English. Prior to joining EOWS, Romia was a program manager in the Corrections Program Office for 2½ years.

Tara Craft, an intern who joined EOWS in mid-January, is a Political Science/Criminal Justice major at the University of Wisconsin Madison. Tara assists in research and editing.

Mark your CALENDAR



MAY

- 13–15** Series V of the National Congress for Community Economic Development's National Leadership Forum will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. The topic of the forum is community economic development. For more information, call 202-234-5009.
- 19–22** Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 93rd Annual National Conference and Exhibition, 1230 Peachtree Street NW., Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3447. For more information, call 404-815-5775.

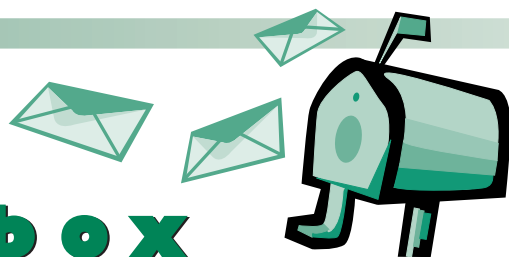
JUNE

- 4** Deadline for submission for the EOWS 1999 Poster Contest: "Partnerships in My Community." For more information, contact Louise Lucas at 202-616-3454.
- 5** Safe Night USA will celebrate and connect thousands of local efforts with a live show simulcast on PBS and BET. The goal is to have 10,000 Safe Nights events happening simultaneously across the country—all connected by the live show! For more information call 1-800-942-3723.
- 2–5** 14th National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community, Orlando, Florida, at the Omni Rosen Hotel. The conference is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Florida Attorney General to address the presence of the disproportionate number of African-Americans in the criminal justice system. The 1998 conference attracted more than 2,100 participants. For more information, contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at 850-414-3350.
- 14** Deadline for submission of "Safe Start Initiative" Grant Applications, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). For more information, call OJJDP's Clearinghouse at 1-800-638-8736 or visit the Web site www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/.
- 27–30** National Sheriffs' Association 1999 Annual Conference and Exhibition, Columbus, Ohio. For more information, call 703-836-7827.

JULY

- 18–21** Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: Enhancing Policy and Practice, Washington, D.C., at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. Sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and other Office of Justice Programs offices and bureaus. Registration is possible online at www.nijpcs.org/upcoming.htm. For more information, call 703-684-5300.
- 27–30** National Youth Gang Symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada. Practitioners from all disciplines involved in addressing youth gang and violence problems (school personnel, community organizations, youth-serving professionals, law enforcement, researchers, and elected officials) are invited to attend. More information can be found at online at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ or call 1-800-446-0912 ext. 252, 259, or 285.

Mailbox



EOWS receives hundreds of queries from the field each month. Our Mailbox section provides an arena in which to answer questions and share comments. Via this shared line of communication, Weed and Seed sites can keep themselves informed and up to date—so we need your participation! E-mail your questions and comments to askeows@ojp.usdoj.gov, or mail them to EOWS, 810 Seventh Street NW., Washington, DC 20531.

Get Your Banners Here!

"The publication, The Guide to Promoting Your Weed and Seed Site, states that banners (large and small) are available that can be borrowed. How do I go about borrowing one?"

Joan Starch, Project Director
Tuscon, Arizona, Weed and Seed

EOWS currently has four banners for sites needing promotional support at special events. They vary in size (from 2 feet by 6 feet to 3 feet by

8 feet) and are made of sturdy vinyl; they are perfect for outdoor use. We ask that you ship the banner back to EOWS as soon as your event is over so that other sites can use them. To request a banner, or if you would like information on having one made for your own site (prices vary), please call Penne Soltysik at 202-514-0709.

Weed and Seed Logo

"We would like to get some promotional items and business cards made for our site. How do we get a copy of the Weed and Seed logo?"

Nyelene Qasam
Houston, Texas, Weed and Seed

The Weed and Seed logo has four variations; the single-house logo and the skyline logo are available in both color and black and white. EOWS distributes these logos electronically (by e-mail and on disk) and as camera-ready art. If your site would like to use the Weed and Seed

logo it is free and available by calling Penne Soltysik at 202-514-0709.

The Return of the Metal Signs

"The Executive Office once provided sites with reflective metal signs to be displayed in Weed and Seed areas. Are they still available, and how do I go about ordering these metal signs for my Weed and Seed site?"

Charles Eduardos
Euclid, Ohio, Police Department

Dozens of requests for these signs have been received by EOWS in recent months. Good news! EOWS has just completed an order for more metal street signs. The design is more eye-catching and the signs are slightly larger than before. Distribution of these signs will begin in June 1999. Quantities to be sent to each site have not yet been determined. Sites should submit requests for signs through their EOWS Program Manager.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Executive Office for Weed and Seed

Washington, DC 20531

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